

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: DECLER ET AL. Examiner: UNKNOWN  
Serial No.: 10/612,475 Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN  
Filed: JULY 2, 2003 Docket: 1945.185US01  
Due Date: OCTOBER 2, 2003  
Title: COUPLER AND METHOD OF MAKING MOLDED COUPLER

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: , Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 17, 2003.

By: *Kate G*  
Name: *KATE GANNON*

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, 14 Reference(s)
- Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
612.332.5300

By: *[Signature]*  
Name: Michael D. Schumann  
Reg. No.: 30,422  
MSchumann:kg





SEP 22 2003

S/N 10/612,475

PATENT

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By: Kate J.  
Name: KATE GANNON

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

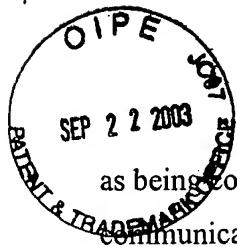
With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, which is not an application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked



as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

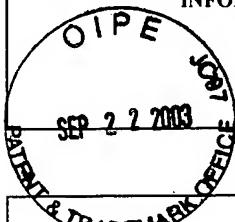
Respectfully submitted

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Date: September 19, 2003

  
Michael D. Schumann  
Reg. No. 30,422  
MDS:kg



| <b>FORM 1449*</b><br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b><br><b>IN AN APPLICATION</b><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) |                 |            |                      | Docket Number:<br>01945.0185US01 | Application Number:<br>10/612,475 |                            |
|---|-----------------|------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
|   |                 |            |                      | Applicant: DECLER ET AL.         |                                   |                            |
|   |                 |            |                      | Filing Date: 07/02/2003          | Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN           |                            |
| <b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>  |                 |            |                      |                                  |                                   |                            |
| EXAMINER INITIAL  | DOCUMENT NO.    | DATE       | NAME                 | CLASS                            | SUBCLASS                          | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|   | 433,750         | 08/05/1890 | Shields              |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   | 3,097,865       | 07/16/1963 | Zeeb et al.          |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   | 3,799,584       | 03/26/1974 | Slocum               |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   | 4,296,950       | 10/27/1981 | Chamberlin           |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   | 4,566,723       | 01/28/1986 | Schulze et al.       |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   | 5,127,678       | 07/07/1992 | Henning              |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   | 5,403,041       | 04/04/1995 | Merkel et al.        |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   | 5,451,031       | 09/19/1995 | Purvis et al.        |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   | 5,494,074       | 02/27/1996 | Ramacier, Jr. et al. |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   | 5,636,877       | 06/10/1997 | Purvis et al.        |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   | 5,884,943       | 03/23/1999 | Katzer et al.        |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   | 5,917,148       | 06/29/1999 | Woehl et al.         |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   | 5,938,244       | 08/17/1999 | Meyer                |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   | 2002/0041094 A1 | 04/11/2002 | Twyman               |                                  |                                   |                            |
| <b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>   |                 |            |                      |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   | DOCUMENT NO.    | DATE       | COUNTRY              | CLASS                            | SUBCLASS                          | TRANSLATION                |
|   |                 |            |                      |                                  |                                   | YES                        |
|   |                 |            |                      |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   |                 |            |                      |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   |                 |            |                      |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   |                 |            |                      |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   |                 |            |                      |                                  |                                   |                            |
| <b>OTHER DOCUMENTS</b> (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)   |                 |            |                      |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   |                 |            |                      |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   |                 |            |                      |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   |                 |            |                      |                                  |                                   |                            |
|   |                 |            |                      |                                  |                                   |                            |

|   |                 |  |
|---|-----------------|--|
| EXAMINER  | DATE CONSIDERED | <br><b>23552</b><br>PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE |
| EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant. |                 |  |